

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 14, 1938

The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1938 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, January 14, 1938. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Shepley,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting held December 16, 1937, were approved.

Mr. Borie called attention to the dates of expiration of terms of the members as given on page 12, stating that he thought there was a mistake in the date of expiration of his term of office. The Secretary called attention to the fact that while a member's commission issued by the State Department states the date of appointment, the actual term of a member of the Commission of Fine Arts does not begin until he takes the oath of office. This is in accordance with a rule of the Department of State and the General Accounting Office and has been followed through the years by the Commission of Fine Arts.

2. MEDAL FOR GEORGE M. COHAN: Under date of January 4, 1938, the following letter was received from the Director of the Mint, submitting a revised design for the gold medal authorized by Congress to be given to George M. Cohan, the writer of "Over There":

Hon. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The sketches returned with your letter of December 17th, were forwarded to Mr. Springweiler, together with the suggestions set forth by the Commission. Mr. Springweiler has again sent to this Bureau a revised design for the Cohan medal and I am forwarding the sketch to you for consideration.

Mr. Springweiler states that he has taken the matter up with Mr. Manship and that the design now being forwarded is in accordance with Mr. Manship's suggestions.

The Bureau has noted the communication telephoned to us yesterday to the effect that the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts will take place on January 14th.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Nellie Tayloe Ross,
Director of the Mint.

The question was raised as to what the design for the reverse would be and on inquiry the Director of the Mint reported orally that there would be no design made for the reverse. Mr. Manship explained that the United States Mint will use a standard die for the reverse of the medal on which an inscription would be engraved.

Mr. Manship said the revised design for the obverse meets with his approval and accordingly upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. A report was sent to the Director of the Mint. (Exhibit A)

3. PAINTINGS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: Mr. Savage presented a report on the sketches by Ernest Fiene for four mural paintings for the new Department of the Interior Building. Mr. Clarke read the report and it was approved by the Commission. The report was then embodied in a letter sent to Mr. Rowan. (Exhibit B)

4. CALVIN COOLIDGE HIGH SCHOOL: The secretary reported that during the past few weeks there had been considerable agitation about the design of the

Calvin Coolidge High School proposed for erection in Takoma Park, D. C., at Fifth and Sheridan Streets. At the meeting of the Commission in New York City on September 29, Mr. Wyeth had submitted a design for a building in the modern style of architecture and also one colonial in character, and the Commission had expressed its preference for the colonial type. Now objection has been made by citizens of Takoma Park to the appearance of the proposed colonial building and Mr. Wyeth has expressed the desire to submit the design again in behalf of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Accordingly Mr. Wyeth appeared before the Commission and submitted both design and model for the building. He referred to the controversy about the design but said this design which he was submitting had received the approval of both the Board of Education and also the citizens of Takoma Park. He said it is a compact building and can be readily enlarged.

The Commission took note of the fact that Mr. Wyeth had altered the original design and improved the appearance of it considerably by the addition of a pediment with columns at the main entrance and a cupola, and also limestone trim.

The rear of the building will be adjacent to the Takoma Park Recreation Center where provision is made for a stadium. The model indicated an attractive arrangement of trees at the edge of the grounds. Mr. Wyeth said these are actually growing on the location for the school. The entire area covers about 30 acres.

Mr. Wyeth mentioned the fact that Mr. M. C. Magathan, President of the Takoma Park Citizens' Association had urged that a school building of the Theodore Roosevelt type be built because the Roosevelt School has pavilions for the auditorium and gymnasium and the power plant is located some distance

from the main building. Mr. Wyeth said this is very costly construction and not as efficient for administrative purposes as the design he is submitting, which places the gymnasium and auditorium in projecting wings, with the heating plant in the court at the rear of the building.

The Commission were well satisfied with the design and after discussion approved it generally. There was some question as to the use of wood for the cornice and columns. Mr. Shepley said that inasmuch as approximately \$150,000 could be saved thereby it should be considered; he also mentioned stucco columns with cast iron bases. Mr. Wyeth said he would not mind using wood if assurance could be given that funds would be made available regularly for maintenance but there is always serious difficulty in getting money for upkeep of a building after it has been built; hence he prefers to use limestone.

After further consideration the Commission made the following recommendations with respect to the design:

The Commission would prefer to see the cornice made of lead coated copper, the columns in stucco, the capitals of artificial stone and the bases in cast iron--all painted white. The Commission suggest omitting the parapet except over the central motif at the rear.

The Commission felt that the cornice as shown on the perspective is too heavy; it would prefer to have the spring line of the arched reveals below the heads of the second floor windows; and would prefer a metal roof with standing seams to one of slate.

A report giving general approval with these recommendations was sent to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. (Exhibit C)

5. EXTENSION OF THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: The secretary reported that Representative Eugene B. Crowe had requested the Commission of Fine Arts to inform him as to whether stone or brick had been approved for the Government Printing Office Building (Annex 3) to replace the old Government Printing Office of 1860 at North Capitol and H Streets, N. W. Representative Crowe had

informed the Secretary that the pending Treasury Department Appropriation Bill contains a proviso which will limit the construction to brick.

The Commission referred to the Minutes of the meeting held March 27, 1936, and found that the Commission had considered and approved plans submitted by Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, which called for a stone building at North Capitol and H Streets and that the design was approved as such for a stone building. A letter was sent to Representative Crowe giving this information. (Exhibit D)

6. NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR: PARTICIPATION BY COMMISSION: The Secretary submitted the following memorandum on the subject of a National Capital exhibit at the New York World's Fair in 1939, which was considered by the Commission:

January 4, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS:

On December 30, 1937, Mr. Partridge, Consulting Architect of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and I called on Mr. Howard L. Cheney, Architect of the Government building for the New York World's Fair, at the Procurement Division. The purpose of our visit was to ascertain from him whether there would be room for a model of the Regional Area of Washington approximately 25 or 30 feet square and if not, what arrangements could be made to exhibit a model of the Central Area of Washington about 10 x 25 feet in size.

Mr. Cheney showed us the plans for the building and pointed out that there would not be room for a model of the Regional Area of Washington. He said a model of the Central Area could be well placed in the reception room on the first floor. Mr. Partridge estimates that such a model would cost \$10,000. The leading Government buildings will be large enough to be individually distinctive and it is proposed to light them by electricity.

I have been informed that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission at their meeting today will be asked to approve exhibition of a model of the Central Area. If the Commission of Fine Arts will likewise approve this suggestion, we can then apply for the \$10,000 which is needed to make the model.

(Signed) H. P. Coemmerer,
Secretary.

Mr. Savage said there has been such a demand on the part of all the Government Bureaus for models that if these requests were granted the Government

participation in the Fair would be given over to circulation around tables.

But the New York World's Fair is not going to be that kind of exhibition. He added that the U. S. New York World Fair Commission is not in favor of having models such as have been exhibited heretofore. Mr. Savage thought that people would learn more from the types of exhibitions that are being planned, as dioramas, Balopticons, etc. He thought that a Balopticon might be used to show some pictures of Washington as it was ten or more years ago and as it is now.

After further consideration the Commission felt that it would be unwise to urge the granting of permission to make a model if the model would not be in harmony with the rest of the exhibition. It was then suggested that possibly a relief map of Washington might be made showing an outline of the plan of Washington in the center and the suburban areas adjacent to it. Such a map would possibly measure 15 by 25 feet and could be illuminated.

The secretary stated that he was cooperating with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in this matter. The Chairman requested that the secretary keep him informed of any developments.

(A letter was received by Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, from Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture and Chairman of the U. S. New York Fair Commission, disapproving the suggestion of a model but expressing his interest in a National Capital exhibit. (Exhibit E))

7. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT REGULATIONS: The Commission considered the following amendment drafted by Mr. Clarke which will make the regulation limiting advertising signs to 25 square feet a little more elastic:

No sign shall be constructed, painted, or affixed on buildings coming within the provisions of the act (Public No. 231), except with specific approval of the Commission of Fine Arts in each case.

In general signs shall not exceed 25 square feet in area; the Commission may in its discretion make special exceptions to this requirement. No roof signs are permitted.

Mr. Clarke said the amendment had been drafted on the suggestion of Captain Oram, Executive Officer of the Zoning Commission, who states that the 25-foot limitation is too strict and sometimes unfair. The Commission recognized merit in the suggestion and approved the amendment. The architect members of the Commission felt that at times a 30-square foot sign might look better on a building than a 25-square foot sign and therefore there should be no objection to a slight deviation from the 25-square foot limitation. The secretary said he would have the amendment added to the regulations, which are being printed in pamphlet form.

8. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT AMENDMENT: Mr. Clarke stated that he had addressed a letter to Colonel Sultan and Prof. Hubbard who are serving with him on a committee to consider the question of amending the Shipstead-Luce Act. The letter suggested a few additional circles and squares and other park areas that might be included as part of the Shipstead-Luce Act areas. (Exhibit F) Mr. Clarke said he expected the committee would meet sometime soon for a thorough consideration of the subject.

In a brief statement about zoning Mr. Clarke said: "If the cities are to be saved, the courts in the next few years will have to give a much more liberal interpretation to police powers; when a zoning commission assumes architectural control of areas generally an owner may claim that zoning is confiscatory of his private rights. The provisions of the Shipstead-Luce Act cannot be considered apart from the Zoning Act. In Washington when the Zoning Act was adopted in 1920 too much land was zoned for business and industry. Someday this will have to be changed, but it is always difficult to zone to a least

intensive use and bulk. The mistake was made so that the value of the property is reduced by restricting the use, you have a lot of trouble on your hands. The 1920 zoning law in Washington was one of the first in the country and they were guided then by the uses to which the areas would be put. Considerable progress in zoning has been made since then."

The secretary brought to the attention of the Commission letters received from citizens of Bradbury Heights (in the Fort Dupont Area of east Washington) requesting that they be given protection under the Shipstead-Luce Act the same as residents along Rock Creek Park. These letters were referred to the committee. (Exhibit F-1)

9. SUGGESTION FOR SOLVING TRAFFIC PROBLEMS: Mr. Clarke brought to the attention of the Commission a memorandum received from Mr. Wm. A. Delano, offering suggestions for solving traffic problems in the District of Columbia. (Exhibit G) Mr. Clarke said that the suggestions made by Mr. Delano have merit and he was submitting the memorandum for the consideration of the Commission.

10. OSCAR STRAUS MEMORIAL: The secretary submitted an architectural design received from Mr. Otto Eggers for the proposed Oscar Straus Memorial. The Commission inspected the design and advised with respect to the balustrade on the court side that the segmental section at the center be omitted so that the railing comes through on a level line. While it was thought that this might slightly alter the arrangement of the medallion and the inscription, the Commission considered that it would be very much more satisfactory. A letter was sent to Mr. Eggers accordingly. (Exhibit H)

11. GREAT PLAZA DEVELOPMENT: The secretary submitted the following letter received from the National Park Service, being a copy of one sent to Mr. Reynolds, Assistant Director of the Procurement Division, concerning the Great Plaza development:

January 12, 1938.

My dear Mr. Reynolds:

The Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts has furnished me with a copy of your letter of January 3, relative to the completion of the Great Plaza in the Triangle area. You advise that the Procurement Division will be pleased to submit to the Bureau of the Budget the estimate for an appropriation for this work immediately upon direction from the President or the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations in the Department of the Interior which, by Executive Order dated June 10, 1933, is vested with the authority of determining the order in which public building construction shall be undertaken in the District of Columbia.

It is the view of the National Park Service, successor to the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, that the Great Plaza project is not a building under the terms of the Public Buildings Commission Act. Nor could there be approval by this Service "as to the assignment and general arrangement of space therein".

In view of the above, and the fact that the land still remains under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department, it would appear that the Procurement Division should submit the estimate direct to the Bureau of the Budget which is the proper agency to have the item cleared by the President's Committee for a Federal Buildings Program.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Arno E. Cammerer,
Director.

The secretary stated that he had been informed by Admiral Peoples, Director of the Procurement Division, that his office has twice requested the Bureau of the Budget to approve an appropriation item of \$500,000 and that his office is anxious to see the Great Plaza developed and will make another request for an approval of the item whereupon Congress will be asked for the amount.

Mr. Clarke said he has suggested to Mr. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, that the design for the Great Plaza be revised so that the drive around the perimeter of the court will be widened from 36 feet to 40 feet, which will allow for one row of diagonal parking of cars on one side of the drive. A favorable reply was received from Mr. Simon.
(Exhibit I)

12. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE STATUARY: Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, reported that since the meeting of the Commission on December 16, his office has contacted firms on the price of marble with the result that he finds the total cost of the four groups (two by Mr. Friedlander and two by Mr. Fraser) will be \$155,000. The original contract was for \$138,000 or \$69,000 for each of the two groups. Mr. Finnan said he has only \$57,000 available for these statues so that it will be necessary to ask the Bureau of the Budget and Congress for the \$98,000 necessary. He said out of a total appropriation of \$14,500,000 for the Arlington Memorial Bridge project there was left \$1,700,000 available for appropriations to complete the project.

13. COLUMBIA ISLAND DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Finnan reported that the bridge at the north end of Columbia Island across the channel is being built and this will provide a connection with the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Lee Highway. The roadway on Columbia Island will be built by the Bureau of Public Roads. The contract provides for grading and paving but no curbs nor planting.

Mr. Clarke called attention to the plan for development of Columbia Island Plaza which provides for a large circle in the center with a roadway north to connect with the Lee Highway and south to connect with the Mt. Vernon Highway.

14. PAINTINGS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS: Under date of January 5, 1938, the following letter was received from James O'Connor Roberts, attorney, 729--15th Street, N. W., requesting an opinion on the subject of paintings made from photographs:

Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The Federal Trade Commission has cited my clients, Messrs. Dial and Broyle, to show cause why they should not be prohibited

from selling certain types of portraits and calling them paintings.

These portraits are made in the following manner: A photograph of the subject is secured and notations made as to color of hair, eyes, type of clothing desired to be shown, etc. The artist who paints the portrait uses a photographic background on the canvas and then proceeds in accordance with the instructions received to paint the portrait. It should be understood that the photographic outline in no way appears in the finished product. It is simply used in place of a free hand sketch which might otherwise be made by the artist. The paintings are finished in either oil or water color, depending on the type of painting desired by the customer.

It is respectfully requested that you answer the following two questions, to the end that the Federal Trade Commission may be apprized of the opinion of the Fine Arts Commission on this question:

1. Where an artist uses a photograph from which to make his painting and in lieu of a freehand sketch uses a photographic outline, in your opinion, is the finished product properly demoninated as a painting?
2. Has or has not the Fine Arts Commission accepted as paintings on behalf of the Government, portraits which have been made from photographs, with or without the use of photographic outlines?

Your prompt reply to this inquiry will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) James O'Connor Roberts.

The Commission took note of the fact that this involved a controversy with the Federal Trade Commission. Mr. Shepley said the Federal Trade Commission is a body which determines whether an article on the market is what it is claimed to be. Mr. Borie noted that the Federal Trade Commission has prohibited the use of the word tile by those who make tiles of metal; that an article cannot be called tile unless it is made of clay. Mr. Lamb added that the Federal Trade Commission prevents misrepresentation in advertising.

The Commission considered Mr. Roberts' questions carefully. Mr. Clarke suggested that the Commission write to the attorney stating what the Commission of Fine Arts is primarily appointed for, namely, to give advice about

Government buildings and memorials for the District of Columbia; and also to advise the President and Committees of Congress when required to do so. If we should be asked for an opinion by the Federal Trade Commission, Mr. Clarke said, we would give it but this letter comes from a private individual and I do not think it is our job to give a legal opinion.

Mr. Savage said each painting should be judged on its own merits. Mr. Manship offered the following suggestion: In each case paintings have been accepted on the basis of aesthetic evaluation as works of art without consideration of the technical processes involved. Mr. Savage said that artists may make a solar print enlargement for temporary use. He told how Mr. Hewlett made sketches, had them photographed and then made lantern slides which he projected on the wall.

The Commission again referred to the organic act and noted it was their particular duty to advise on questions regarding works of art for the District of Columbia and to "advise the President and Committees of Congress when requested to do so". It was finally agreed that it was not the function of the Commission to answer hypothetical questions of art and the Chairman was empowered to draft a letter for such amendment as the other members might wish to make, to be sent in reply to Mr. Roberts. (Exhibit J)

15. PRETTYMAN REPORT: Mr. Clarke brought to the attention of the Commission the following proposal stated in the report of the Citizens' Efficiency Committee for the District of Columbia, the so-called Prettyman Report, page 8, as follows:

Fine Arts. At least four of the nine members of the Fine Arts Commission, which passes upon the architectural types of buildings, statues, etc., in the District should be either resident in, or regularly engaged in business or practice within, the District. Such persons would be far more familiar with the practical aspects of local architectural problems than a wholly non-resident Commission can be.

Mr. Borie said the fact is just the reverse: "We are free of prejudices and local politics because we do not live here."

The secretary said that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia have not approved the Prettyman Report and the act creating the Commission of Fine Arts gives the President of the United States authority to appoint artists from anywhere in the United States to serve on the Commission.

16. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION: The secretary reported that the Commission has been asked, if possible, to hold a special meeting in Washington on or about February 10, to advise as to a model that is being made for a new piano for the White House. The model is being completed by Mr. Eric Gugler of New York City. Mr. Henry Junge of the Steinway Company, which is furnishing the piano, proposes to submit the model to the President and then to the Commission of Fine Arts.

Also the Commission will be asked by about February 10 to advise with reference to certain sculpture at the east end of the Apex Building for which models are now being received by the Section of Painting and Sculpture in a national competition.

The Commission accordingly agreed tentatively on February 10 for the next meeting.

The Commission were the guests of Mr. Edward Bruce, Director of the Section of Painting and Sculpture of the Procurement Division, at luncheon. Later in the afternoon the Commission made a trip of inspection to Columbia Island and Anacostia Park.

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 p. m.

C O P Y

January 14, 1938.

Dear Mrs. Ross:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today approved the revised design by Mr. Erwin Springweiller for the obverse of the George M. Cohan Medal. The sketch is returned to you herewith.

The Commission will be pleased to see the model made from the sketch.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Nellie Tayloe Ross,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

January 14, 1938.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

With reference to the sketches by Ernest Fiene for mural paintings in the Interior Department Building, which you submitted recently, I have to inform you that they were brought to the attention of Mr. Eugene Savage, painter member of the Commission, who made the following report which the Commission of Fine Arts approved at their meeting today:

These paintings are vital representations of the activities illustrated, and are approved with the following suggestions which are made in the interest of amplifying the linear composition and pattern covering the spaces.

In the fire fighting episode the group of figures recedes so rapidly to the left in its relationship to the picture plane that it makes the composition, from the figure standpoint, seem fragmentary. The following suggestion is more as an illustration of what is meant than as a specific correction, which is left to the artist--that the group of three men be more separated from the figure in the foreground with the axe, the farthest figure being enlarged or raised to turn the interest back into the composition so that the group of three men are in opposition to the man with the axe rather than part of a group with him.

In the reforestation scene there is no suggestion concerning the fundamental line composition, which is quite complete. The rapid perspective in sizes of figures is somewhat unmural. It is suggested that the men in the foreground be made slightly smaller and that the man with the flag and the more distant men be made slightly larger.

In the mining scene the composition is fundamentally quite good but the same violation of mural quality holds in that the picture plane objects touch the picture plane at one point only whereas by reason of their nearness and the enlargement of objects in the middle distance or distance one should have the

EXHIBIT B

impression that the picture plane is more sustained in pattern over the height and width of the area. It is suggested that in this mining scene the dredging machinery be enlarged to about the point where its upper parts are just half the distance from the top of the composition rather than as they are now, and so lift themselves noticeably above the skyline.

In the cattle grazing scene it is felt that the fore-shortened circular movement swinging from the lower left clear around to the upper left would make a very much more interesting composition if the lines with which this mass swing is accomplished would be done in a series of counterpointing angles rather than the smooth linear circular lines which tend rather to dry out the composition and force the eye around too quickly.

The Commission will be pleased to see the revised sketches.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

January 19, 1938.

Dear Sirs:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on January 14, 1938, Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted in your behalf the design and model for the Calvin Coolidge High School to be built at Fifth and Sheridan Streets in Takoma Park. The Commission approved the design in general.

The Commission would prefer to see the cornice made of lead coated copper, the columns in stucco, the capitals of artificial stone and the bases in cast iron--all painted white. The Commission suggest omitting the parapet except over the central motif at the rear.

The Commission felt that the cornice as shown on the perspective is too heavy; it would prefer to have the spring line of the arched reveals below the heads of the second floor windows; and would prefer a metal roof with standing seams to one of slate.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

The Honorable
Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

January 14, 1938.

Dear Mr. Crowe:

In compliance with your request to Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, the Commission have reviewed the minutes of March 27, 1936, with respect to the Government Printing Office Extension and find that the drawings and sketches for the addition were submitted for a stone exterior and as such were approved by the Commission.

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Eugene B. Crowe,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington

January 17, 1938.

UNITED STATES NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR COMMISSION

Mr. Frederic A. Delano,
Chairman, National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

The questions raised in your letter of December 7 were considered by the United States New York World's Fair Commission at its meeting on January 10. The Commission believes that the Commissioner should adhere to the functional plan of exhibition, a plan which appeals strongly not only to the Commission and the Commissioner but to the President as well. By the same token the Commission has decided that central control of funds in the hands of the Commissioner is indispensable. I know the Commissioner realizes the importance of and wide public interest in the work of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and I am sure he will do everything within his power to provide for it in the federal building at the New York Fair.

Sincerely,

(Signed) H. A. Wallace

Chairman.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

December 29, 1937.

Dear Col. Sultan:

The question concerning whether or not it is feasible to have the provisions of the Shipstead-Luce Act extended to other parts of the City of Washington has been referred to a committee of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission, of which you are one of three members. The others are Professor Hubbard and the writer.

To start discussion in respect to this matter I am submitting to you herewith a map of the city upon which I have outlined several public parks and the private lands immediately adjacent thereto that might be included in areas over which the Shipstead-Luce Act may be extended to include, subject, of course, to favorable action by the two Commissions, the District Commissioners, and finally by the Congress. The areas about the following circles, squares and parks are set down merely as a suggestion and to obtain your reaction:

Lafayette Square
Dupont Circle
Scott Circle
Thomas Circle
Logan Circle
Meridian Hill Park
Farragut Square

McPherson Square
Washington Circle
Lincoln Park
Stanton Park
Seward Square
Folger Park
Barney Circle

I am not at all certain in my own mind whether or not we should go into this matter at all. If we do, I don't know how large a site we should take at one time; in any event, I'm sure we should be conservative lest the effectiveness of the whole act be jeopardized. Will you, sometime at your convenience, let me have your reaction to the suggestion that we extend the Act more or less as I have indicated.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke.

Col. D. I. Sultan,
Engineer Commissioner,
District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

COPY

DELANO & ALDRICH
ARCHITECTS
126 EAST THIRTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEW YORK

January 3, 1938.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

At the request of Mr. Delano, I am sending you the enclosed copy of the report made by him in connection with the parking problem in Washington.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. Manning

Secretary.

Gilmore D. Clarke, Esq.,
101 Park Avenue,
New York City.

EXHIBIT G

under the Ellipse, and in various other locations, and abandoned because of the initial cost and the expense of operation. Mechanical garages with lifts of differing types were considered for certain places in or near the congested areas, but these too were discarded not only because of the expense of building and operating but because of the length of time required to fill and empty morning and evening. All the systems studied would have laid an unwarranted tax on all taxpayers for the benefit of a comparatively small class and would have vomited a stream of cars into already congested streets at certain hours. But if in spite of the excessive costs and inconveniences, any or all of these provisions had been made by the Treasury, the traffic problem would not have been solved, for the crux of the matter is that too many cars are driven into these congested areas at certain hours in the morning and out again in the evening. From an esthetic point of view, the streets and parks might have been less disfigured during the day but the congestion morning and evening would have remained.

A thoroughfare, roadway or sidewalk, as the name implies, is an open way for moving traffic; they belong to the public and should not be obstructed without penalty. The driver of a car pays a license fee for the use of these thoroughfares and to insure the public against a reckless use of them. Why should he not be penalized when he obstructs them with a parked car for many hours a day?

While this argument has logic on its side, we realize that it would be extremely difficult at this time to educate public opinion to accept it universally but it can be applied with public approval, we believe, in restricted areas which may, if the public good demands, be extended. We therefore, propose, not as a remedy but as an amelioration of the present congestion, the following

...the Chinese, and in various other countries...
the United States and the Government of China...
on American troops were stationed for several years...
...but they had no other...
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But it is in spite of the necessity...
Provisional had...
...been solved...
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...eventually...
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While this...
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skeleton plan: many of the details will have to be studied and worked out to make it thoroughly effective.

1. That the District Commissioners designate certain of the Government areas to be known as Licensed Parking Areas. In these areas, no car would be permitted to park for more than one hour unless it carried a special license plate, easily distinguishable (a round one instead of the ordinary oblong plate.) The owner of the car would be required to pay fifty dollars for this special plate in addition to the regular license fee, but it would give him all day parking rights in the Licensed Parking Areas. In other words, he would rent from the City 160 sq. ft. of roadway for approximately three cents a square foot per annum. Any car without such special plate would be liable to a fine of five dollars, if parked for more than one hour.
2. That the City acquire, in the outlying areas of the District and adjacent to bus and trolley lines leading into the Licensed Parking Areas, adequate acreage for free open air parking; the cost of this land to be paid for over a period of years from the sale of special license plates.
3. That Government employees have the privilege of buying, for twenty dollars, books of six hundred tickets, good for rides on these buses or trolleys. The bus and trolley companies to be compensated for the difference between this rate and the usual fare, from the amount collected for special license plates.

If these three measures could be put into effect, they would have, we believe, the following beneficent effects:

- (a) Cut down materially the number of cars entering the Government areas and by so much the congestion.
- (b) Lead private capital to erect garages in or near the congested areas, which would bring in a fair return on the money invested and indirectly benefit the shop-keepers.
- (c) Increase the revenues of the bus and trolley companies.
- (d) Give the taxi-cabs more business.

The plan proposed is fair -- first, because the public, who pays the taxes, would have freer streets; second, because the Government employee, who today pays well over twenty dollars a year in gasoline and wear and tear in entering the congested areas and seeking a free parking space near his work, would benefit financially.

It is flexible for it can be modified as the public good demands, either by enlarging the Licensed Parking Areas or increasing the special parking fee if too many avail themselves of the privilege. It would bring in a substantial revenue to the City, which could be applied to the aforementioned purposes and the creation of a special motor police force to patrol the Licensed Parking Areas.

Among the details which would have to be worked out are:

1. The boundaries of the Licensed Parking Areas.
2. Arrangements with the States of Virginia and Maryland for the collection of the fee.
3. Negotiation with the bus and trolley companies.
4. The treatment of cars from other states than Virginia and Maryland - taxi-cab stands.
5. The amount and collection of fines for violators of the parking rules in the Licensed Areas.
6. Cars in Government service.
7. The possibility, on one-way streets without trolley lines, of restricting parking to one side of the street.

We urge the District Commissioners to give this plan a trial over a large enough area and long enough time to bring out its advantages or defects.

December 28th, 1937.

C O P Y

January 19, 1938.

Dear Mr. Eggers:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on January 14, 1938, considered the 3/4 scale drawing of the Oscar Straus Memorial Fountain, dated 1932. With respect to the balustrade on the court side the Commission would prefer to have the segmented section at the center omitted so that the railing will carry through on a level line.

This may slightly alter the arrangement of the medallion and the inscription but it appears to the Commission that it would be very much more satisfactory.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Otto R. Eggers,
542 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Procurement Division
Washington

January 14, 1938

Major Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Clarke:

Acknowledgment is made of your letter of January 10, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Frederic A. Delano of January 4 and a copy of your reply of the eighth, all in regard to the development of the Great Plaza in the Triangle Area.

I believe that your suggestion to widen the roadway to thirty-six feet, or perhaps forty feet as the maximum, would meet all reasonable requirements for the parking of automobiles in this area.

It is hoped that authorization to proceed with this much needed improvement may be forthcoming within the near future, and when it does I shall certainly favor proceeding on the basis described above.

Thank you for your attention to this matter which is of such great interest to all of us.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) L. A. Simon,
Supervising Architect.

EXHIBIT I

